

April 2005

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO GATE 9 AND
EXTENSION OF GOSS ROAD AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA**

The Army proposes to construct an improved point-of-access at Gate 9 and an extension of Goss Road at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. This environmental analysis addresses two alternatives, the proposed action and the no-action alternative.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is the construction of improvements to the access control point at Gate 9, which is located on Rideout Road, and the extension of Goss Road to provide a traffic flow connection between Goss Road and Overlook Road. Construction activities at the access control point include renovation to the existing gatehouse and access control structure. Additional construction will include new configurations for the roadway access, installation of passive and active barriers, construction of a new rejection lane, and the addition of two new lanes to the existing four southbound lanes on Rideout Road. An extension of the bike lane, from the existing location near the golf course to Overlook Road will also be constructed. Approximately 12 acres will be disturbed during the proposed construction activities.

No-Action Alternative: Under the no-action alternative, the proposed construction activities at the access control point and the construction of the frontage road for the extension of Goss Road will not be implemented. The traffic flow problems at the existing access control facility and along Goss Road will continue. Security personnel would continue to inspect inbound traffic in the open without protection from the elements and from incoming traffic. The access control point at Gate 9 on Rideout Road will continue to be inadequate to meet the current needs of the installation for traffic flow, as well as future needs for the installation. The no-action is not practical or feasible for the installation.

Environmental Effects: Eleven broad environmental components or resources were considered to provide a context for understanding the potential effects of the proposed action and to provide a basis for assessing the significance of potential impacts. The areas of environmental consideration were air quality, health and safety, biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials and waste, geology and soils, transportation, infrastructure, land use, noise, socioeconomics, and water resources. Cumulative impacts of the proposed action were also analyzed.

No impacts were identified for land use and socioeconomic components. No significant impacts to the other environmental resources were found and anticipated impacts are mitigable. Best management practices will be used to minimize erosion and fugitive dust. An archaeological site is present within the vicinity of the project and will be avoided with a 50-foot buffer. Agricultural leases will be altered prior to construction and the lessee may be reimbursed. Noise producing construction activities will be confined to normal working hours. A construction permit and an operation permit will be required for the backup generator. Proposed construction activities would be scheduled in order to minimize disruption of electrical service, water service, and sewer services. Proposed disruptions to transportation can be minimized through alternate routes during construction and by conducting construction activities during non-peak work hours (evenings and weekends). No significant cumulative impacts were identified for the proposed project.

CONCLUSION

The Environmental Management Division of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW-EM) has prepared an EA that addresses the proposed action and evaluates the environmental impacts of the alternatives considered. Based on the EA for Improvements to Gate 9 and Extension of Goss Road at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, April 2005, there would be no significant environmental impacts associated with this project that would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Should you wish to review the Environmental Assessment for Improvements to Gate 9 and Extension of Goss Road at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, or comment on this action, you may contact Ms. Lira Frye, 256-955-9173, ATTN: IMSE-RED-PA, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, 35898-5000, within thirty days from the date of this publication.